



CALGARY

Weekly Newscasts Lesson Plan

February 15, 2016

Newscasts are current news stories read at a slower pace than you might hear on the radio. These are read by CBC news editor Natasha Frakes.

Objectives:

- To develop listening skills
- To increase vocabulary
- To increase awareness of grammatical structures and functional language
- To increase knowledge of current events
- To provide a user-friendly, self-study tool for learners, as well as an ESL classroom resource for instructors

Contents:

Three news stories are featured in each weekly lesson plan. Each lesson contains vocabulary and listening comprehension activities. At the end of each lesson, you will find a complete transcript and an answer key. This lesson plan is aimed towards learners at an intermediate language level (i.e. Canadian Language Benchmarks 4-5 or equivalent).



Learning English with CBC is a joint project with CBC Calgary, CBC Edmonton, and the Government of Alberta. Lesson Plan is prepared by Deidre Lake, Communication4Integration Inc.

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NEWSCAST 1: CALGARY BOBSLED-TRACK ACCIDENT KILLS TWIN BROTHERS, INJURES 6 OTHER TEENS



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/calgary/calgary-bobsled-fatal-crash-student-supports-1.3438538>

WARM UP

Are you familiar with Canada Olympic Park in Calgary, Alberta? What do you know about it? Did you hear about the teen boys that decided to take their toboggans down the bobsled track?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Listen to the newscast once for overall comprehension.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Listen to the newscast again. While you listen, fill in the blanks with the words that you hear.

Twin 17-year-old brothers, Jordon and Evan Caldwell, were _____
early Saturday after tobogganing down the _____ track at
Canada Olympic Park.

The twins and six _____ were tobogganing on the bobsled track
after _____ on Saturday when they hit a concrete barrier
_____ down the hill. The Caldwell boys died instantly. The six others
_____ injuries ranging from minor to life-altering.

According to the family, the pair were both straight-A students who _____
and were active within their schools and their church. Jordan was the student council
president at Westmount and very _____ in school affairs. Evan had
transferred to Ernest Manning to further his engineering studies, a field he
_____ to pursue at Queen's University.

The family released this statement: "Our boys Jordan and Evan were _____
lights to all who knew them. We are grieving their _____ but
confident in their new home of heaven. Our brief 17 years with them were a
_____: filled with much love, laughter and fond memories. They leave
a huge void and will be sorely _____."

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 1

Look at the story above. Underline the words you do not understand and look up their definitions.

CONCLUSION

Try to tell this story in your own words to a friend or colleague. At the end of your story, say what you think of the story.

NEWSCAST 2: SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILY GETS A TASTE OF CANADIAN CULTURE



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/syrian-refugees-tim-hortons-1.3438880>

WARM UP

Look at the title. What are a few things that you associate with being Canadian or Canadian culture? List your ideas below.

READING ACTIVITY 1

Read the description of the photo.

Bedros, 6, the youngest member of the Gulesarian family, is a natural ham. He and his two siblings arrived in Canada with their parents as refugees from Syria in January 2016. They are slowly adjusting to life in their new home and recently paid their first visit the neighbourhood Tim Hortons to get a taste of Canadian culture. (CBC)

Questions

1. What does it mean to be a ham?
2. Where did they go to get a taste of Canadian culture?

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Listen to the newscast once for overall comprehension (Audio clip time: 1:40).

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY

Look at the following words. Look up their definitions before listening to the newscast again.

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
run-down	
anxious	
legal	
discrimination	
initiative	
plight	
holdups	
resources	

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Listen to the newscast again. While you listen, respond to the questions below.

1. When did CBC meet the Gulesarian family?
2. Where had they been living before coming to Canada?
3. What were they not able to do in the place they lived before coming to Canada?
4. Who were the private sponsors that sponsored the Gulesarian family?
5. When did they arrive in Canada?

(See answer key)

CONCLUSION

View the video link at: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/syrian-refugees-tim-hortons-1.3438880> to watch the full story.

NEWSCAST 3: GRAVITATIONAL WAVES DETECTED FOR 1ST TIME, 'OPENS A BRAND NEW WINDOW ON THE UNIVERSE'

Albert Einstein's general theory of relativity proven right 100 years later



Source: <http://www.cbc.ca/news/technology/ligo-gravitational-wave-1.3443697>

CANADIAN LANGUAGE BENCHMARK LEVEL: 5

WARM UP

Are you interested in space? Why or why not?

Look at the title. Who is Albert Einstein? What did Albert Einstein do? What do you think this story is about?

BACKGROUND: WHAT IS THE THEORY OF RELATIVITY?

Read the simple Internet description below.

The **theory of relativity** was developed by Albert Einstein in the early 1900s. There are two theories of relativity. The first is special relativity and the second is general relativity. Both are based on the principle of relativity, which was created by Galileo Galilei, the Italian astronomer, in the 1600s.

General relativity incorporates gravity into the equation and shows how gravity effects time, bends light and thus effects time. A clock for instance on the ground next to the Empire State building will run faster than a clock on the top of the building because the pull of the earth causes clocks to run slightly slower then a clock that is further away from the center of the planet.

LISTENING ACTIVITY 1

Listen to the newscast once for overall comprehension (Audio clip time: 3:13).

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Listen again. While you listen, follow along with the script below.

Gravitational waves, ripples in space-time predicted by Einstein's general theory of relativity 100 years ago, have finally been detected.

"Ladies and gentlemen, we have detected gravitational waves. We did it," announced Dave Reitze, executive director of the U.S.-based Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO).

The LIGO work is funded by the National Science Foundation, an independent agency of the U.S. government. Einstein in 1916 proposed the existence of gravitational waves as part of his ground-breaking general theory of relativity, which depicted gravity as a distortion of space and time triggered by the presence of matter. But until now scientists had found only indirect evidence of their existence.

Scientists said gravitational waves open a door for a new way to observe the universe and gain knowledge about objects like black holes and neutron stars. By studying gravitational waves they also hope to gain insight into the nature of the very early universe, which has remained mysterious.

"The LIGO announcement describes one of the greatest scientific discoveries of the past 50 years," Cornell University physicist Saul Teukolsky added.

Now answer the following questions:

1. What has recently been detected?
2. What does LIGO stand for? What is it?
3. What did Einstein propose in 1916?
4. Why are scientists excited to discover gravitational waves?
5. What does Cornell University physicist, Saul Teukolsky say about this discovery?

CONCLUSION

Watch the video from LIGO describing this discovery: <http://www.space.com/31901-historic-gravitational-waves-discovery-explained-by-experts-video.html>

TRANSCRIPTS OF WEEKLY NEWSCASTS

	WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi. This is Natasha Frakes. You're listening to Learning English with CBC for the week of February 15th.	0:00
Newscast 1 (Local) Calgary bobsled-track accident kills twin brothers, injures 6 other teens	<p>Twin 17-year-old brothers, Jordon and Evan Caldwell, were killed early Saturday after tobogganing down the bobsled track at Canada Olympic Park.</p> <p>The twins and six friends were tobogganing on the bobsled track after hours on Saturday when they hit a concrete barrier partway down the hill. The Caldwell boys died instantly. The six others suffered injuries ranging from minor to life-altering.</p> <p>According to the family, the pair were both straight-A students who volunteered and were active within their schools and their church. Jordan was the student council president at Westmount and very active in school affairs. Evan had transferred to Ernest Manning to further his engineering studies, a field he planned to pursue at Queen's University.</p> <p>The family released this statement: "Our boys Jordan and Evan were bright lights to all who knew them. We are grieving their loss but confident in their new home of heaven. Our brief 17 years with them were a gift: filled with much love, laughter and fond memories. They leave a huge void and will be sorely missed."</p>	0:09
Newscast 2 (National) Syrian refugee family gets a taste of Canadian culture	<p>CBC first met the Gulesarian family when they were living in a run-down apartment block in Beirut in early December 2015. The refugees from Aleppo, Syria, had been living in Lebanon for three years and were anxious to get to Canada before the new year.</p> <p>In Lebanon, the family of five was not legal, not able to work or attend school, and faced discrimination. The family has a cousin in Toronto and was able to obtain a combination of private and government sponsorship to come to Canada.</p> <p>The Gulesarians' private sponsors are a group of teachers, students and parents from Dewson Street Public School in Toronto's west end. The group formed out of a parent's initiative to teach students and the community about the plight of refugees and to encourage them to be global citizens and lend a helping hand.</p> <p>After a few holdups with the medical tests that refugees are required to undergo, the Gulesarians finally arrived in Canada on Jan. 29. That day, one of their sponsors wanted to introduce the newcomers to a few of the essential resources in their new neighbourhood. First stop: Tim Hortons.</p>	1:40

<p>Newscast 3 (International)</p> <p>Gravitational waves detected for 1st time, 'opens a brand new window on the universe'</p>	<p>Gravitational waves, ripples in space-time predicted by Einstein's general theory of relativity 100 years ago, have finally been detected.</p> <p>"Ladies and gentlemen, we have detected gravitational waves. We did it," announced Dave Reitze, executive director of the U.S.-based Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory (LIGO).</p> <p>The LIGO work is funded by the National Science Foundation, an independent agency of the U.S. government. Einstein in 1916 proposed the existence of gravitational waves as part of his ground-breaking general theory of relativity, which depicted gravity as a distortion of space and time triggered by the presence of matter. But until now scientists had found only indirect evidence of their existence.</p> <p>Scientists said gravitational waves open a door for a new way to observe the universe and gain knowledge about objects like black holes and neutron stars. By studying gravitational waves they also hope to gain insight into the very early universe, which has remained mysterious.</p> <p>"The LIGO announcement describes one of the greatest scientific discoveries of the past 50 years," Cornell University physicist Saul Teukolsky added.</p>	<p>3:13</p>
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ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 1: CALGARY BOBSLED-TRACK ACCIDENT KILLS TWIN BROTHERS, INJURES 6 OTHER TEENS

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

Twin 17-year-old brothers, Jordon and Evan Caldwell, were **killed** early Saturday after tobogganing down the **bobsled** track at Canada Olympic Park.

The twins and six **friends** were tobogganing on the bobsled track after **hours** on Saturday when they hit a concrete barrier **partway** down the hill. The Caldwell boys died instantly. The six others **suffered** injuries ranging from minor to life-altering.

According to the family, the pair were both straight-A students who **volunteered** and were active within their schools and their church. Jordan was the student council president at Westmount and very **active** in school affairs. Evan had transferred to Ernest Manning to further his engineering studies, a field he **planned** to pursue at Queen's University.

The family released this statement: "Our boys Jordan and Evan were **bright** lights to all who knew them. We are grieving their **loss** but confident in their new home of heaven. Our brief 17 years with them were a **gift**: filled with much love, laughter and fond memories. They leave a huge void and will be sorely **missed**."

ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 2: SYRIAN REFUGEE FAMILY GETS A TASTE OF CANADIAN CULTURE

READING ACTIVITY 1

1. What does it mean to be a ham?
Someone incredibly cute; someone who wants to be the center of attention; someone that is always performing and being funny.
2. Where did they go to get a taste of Canadian culture?
Tim Horton's

VOCABULARY ACTIVITY

VOCABULARY	DEFINITION
run-down	(adjective) in a poor or neglected state
anxious	(adjective) worried; concerned about something with an uncertain outcome
legal	(adjective) permitted by law
discrimination	(noun) inequitable treatment based on race, sex, gender, age
initiative	(noun) a new plan or strategy; a new approach to something; to take charge
plight	(noun) a dangerous, difficult, or unfortunate situation
holdups	(noun; plural form) setbacks; delays; difficulties
resources	(noun; plural form) money, materials, people and other assets to assist you to function effectively

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

1. When did CBC meet the Gulesarian family?
CBC first met the Gulesarian family when they were living in a run-down apartment block in Beirut in early December 2015 / In Beirut in December 2015 / December 2015
2. Where had they been living before coming to Canada?
Beirut / Lebanon
3. What were they not able to do in the place they lived before coming to Canada?
They were not able to work or attend school (as they were not legal).
4. Who were the private sponsors that sponsored the Gulesarian family?
The Gulesarians' private sponsors are a group of teachers, students and parents from Dewson Street Public School in Toronto's west end
5. When did they arrive in Canada?
January 29th

**ANSWER KEY FOR NEWSCAST 3: GRAVITATIONAL WAVES DETECTED FOR 1ST TIME,
'OPENS A BRAND NEW WINDOW ON THE UNIVERSE'**

LISTENING ACTIVITY 2

1. What has recently been detected?
Gravitational waves
2. What does LIGO stand for? What is it?
LIGO - Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory. LIGO is an independent agency of the U.S. government and funded by the National Science Foundation.
3. What did Einstein propose in 1916?
He proposed the existence of gravitational waves as part of his ground-breaking general theory of relativity.
4. Why are scientists excited to discover gravitational waves?
Gravitational waves open a door for a new way to observe the universe and gain knowledge about objects like black holes and neutron stars.
5. What does Cornell University physicist, Saul Teukolsky say about this discovery?
He says it is one of the greatest scientific discoveries of the past 50 years.

Thank you for using Learning English with CBC. If you have any questions or comments, please email info@communication4integration.ca